

अखन नै, अखन नै! Not Now, Not Now!

Original Publisher: Pratham Books
Author: Rohini Nilekani
Illustrator: Ruchi Shah
Translator: Gajendra Thakur

Level 1

हम अज्जीकें पुछलिऐ, “हमरा कनी लड्डू देब की?” “ अखन नै बेटा, भऽ सकैए काल्हि दऽ सकी।” मुदा हम काल्हि धरि नै थम्हि सकै छी।

I asked Ajji, “May I please have some laddoos?”

“Not now, beta, maybe tomorrow.”

But I did not want to wait till tomorrow.



हम अज्जाकें पुछलिऐ, “ हम दोस-महीम संगे बाहर खेलाइ लेल जाइ?” “ नै बेटा, अखन नै। कनी सुति जाउ, तकरा बादे।” मुदा हम ततेक नै थम्हि सकै छी।

I asked Ajja, “May I go out to play with my friends?” “Not now, beta. Maybe after your nap?” But I did not want to wait till after my nap.





हम माँकें पुछलिऐ, “की हम ई नबका कपड़ा-लत्ता पहीर सकै छी?” “नै बेटा अखन नै, अहाँ ई तखन पहिरब जखन हम सभ बाहर घुमैले जायब।” मुदा हम ताधरि नै थम्हि सकै छी।

I asked Ma, “May I wear these new clothes?” “Not now, beta, you can wear

हम बाबूकें पुछलिऐ, “ पापा की हम ओइ सुन्दर बक्शाकें खोलि कऽ देखू?” “ अखन नै, अखन नै। कनी थम्हू।” मुदा आब आर बेशी काल हम नै थम्हऽ चाहै छी।

I asked Papa, “May I open that nice looking box?”

“Not now, not now. You must wait.”

But I did not want to wait any more.





किए पैघ लोक सदिखन कहै छथि, “अखन नै, अखन नै”?
ओइ राति हम तमसा कऽ सुतैले गेलौं।
Why do big people always say,
‘Not now, not now’?
That night, I went to sleep feeling angry.

अगिला दिन हम सकाले उठलौं आ भनसाघर गेलौं। अज्जी कहलनि, “ आब अहाँ ई लड्डू खा सकै छी।”

The next day, I woke up early and we nt into the kitchen. Ajji said, “You ca n eat these laddoos now.”





अज्जा कहलनि, “ हम सभ आब क्रिकेट खेला सकै छी।” बाबू कहलनि, “अहाँ आब ऐ बक्शाकें खोलि सकै छी।” आ ओ सभ कहलनि, “शुभ जन्मदिन!”

Ajja said, “We can play cricket now.” Ma said, “You can wear these clothes now.”

Story Attribution:

This story: अखन नै, अखन नै! Not Now, Not Now! is translated by Gajendra Thakur . The © for this translation lies with Gajendra Thakur, 2022. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Based on Original story: 'Not Now, Not Now!', by Rohini Nilekani . © Pratham Books , 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Images Attributions:

Cover page: Boy's face looking out of a circular frame, by Ruchi Shah © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: Boy, grandmother and laddoos, by Ruchi Shah © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: Children holding hands and playing, by Ruchi Shah © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: Boy standing next to shirt and cap , by Ruchi Shah © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: Boy with father and a gift box, by Ruchi Shah © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: Boy lying in bed at night, by Ruchi Shah © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: Boy and grandmother with laddoos, by Ruchi Shah © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: Family surrounding a birthday cake, by Ruchi Shah © Pratham Books, 2011. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.



अखन नै, अखन नै! Not Now, Not Now!

(Maithili-English)

ऐ खिस्साक नेना किछु काज अखने करऽ चाहैए, मुदा सभ पैघ लोक ओकरा कहै छथि 'अखन नै'! जखन लोक अहाँकें ई कहै छथि तँ अहाँकें तामस उठैए की? The little boy in this story wants to do something now, but all his elders say NOT NOW! Do you get angry when someone says that to you?

This is a Level 1 book for children who are eager to begin reading.

